

Appl. No. 09/928,820
Amdt. dated September 9, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 9, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 21, 22, 23, 32 and 33 and amend claims 13, 17, 19, 20, 24, 25, 28 and 31 as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)

Humburg 13. (Currently amended) A bracket for releasably securing components of an easily assembled and disassembled modular furniture system including a base frame, a plurality of furniture modules including a first arm module, a second arm module, a seat suspension module and a backrest module, said bracket comprising:

a blade ¹⁵portion having a mounting ²⁰formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade ¹⁷formation projecting from said mounting formation; and

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a sheath ¹⁰portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting ^{12, 13}formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components, said sheath portion and said blade ~~portion~~ formation being substantially coaxial upon assembly so that said blade portion can be readily slidably disassembled from said sheath portion;

wherein said sheath portion engages an exposed end of said blade portion, and upon assembly, said sheath portion fully encloses said blade formation.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The bracket of claim 13 further including an open rear end of said chamber and a locking device for securing said blade to said sheath portion upon passing through said chamber.

16. (Original) The bracket of claim 15 further including a formation on said blade for engaging said locking device.

17. (Currently amended) The bracket of claim 13 wherein said blade ~~forms~~ portion includes a portion forming a right angle relative to said blade formation.

18. (Cancelled)

*Cl
cont.*
Himebaugh 19. (Currently amended) A bracket for releasably securing components to one another, said bracket comprising:

a blade ¹⁵portion having a mounting ²⁰formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade ¹⁷formation projecting from said mounting formation; and

a sheath ¹⁰portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting ^{12, 13}formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components, said sheath portion configured so that upon assembly of said bracket, said sheath portion is in alignment with said mounting formation of said blade portion and said mounting formation of said blade portion and said mounting formation of said sheath portion are configured to be in opposed relationship to each other.

20. (Currently amended) A bracket for releasably securing components of a
furniture system, said bracket comprising:

¹¹²
Hinebaugh a blade portion having a mounting formation configured for attachment to one
of the components, and an elongate blade formation projecting from said mounting
formation; and

¹⁰
a sheath portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also
having a mounting formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components
said sheath portion being substantially coaxial so that said blade portion can be readily,
slidably disassembled from said sheath portion; *with what?*

wherein upon assembly of said bracket, said mounting formation of said blade
portion and said mounting formation of said sheath portion are configured to be in opposed,
contacting relationship to each other.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

Hinebaugh 24. (Currently Amended) A bracket according to claim ~~23~~ 19 wherein said
mounting formation of said sheath portion and said mounting formation of said blade portion
are in contact with each other upon assembly.

Huebner 25. (Currently Amended) A bracket according to claim ~~23~~ 19 wherein upon
see Figs 8-10
assembly, said sheath portion fully encloses said blade formation.

= 26. (Previously submitted) The bracket of claim 19 further including an
open rear end of said chamber and a locking device for securing said blade to said sheath
portion upon passing through said chamber.

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int = 27. (Previously Submitted) The bracket of claim 26 further including a
formation on said blade for engaging said locking device.

= 28. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 19 wherein said blade ~~forms~~
portion includes a portion forming a right angle relative to said blade formation.

= 29. (Previously Submitted) The bracket of claim 20 further including an
open rear end of said chamber and a locking device for securing said blade to said sheath
portion upon passing through said chamber.

= 30. (Previously Submitted) The bracket of claim 29 further including a
formation on said blade for engaging said locking device.

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31. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 20 wherein said blade forms
= portion includes a portion forming a right angle relative to said blade formation.

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32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)
